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6 February 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with COINS Project Manager - 2 Feb 73

25X1 1. On 29 January 1973, [] COINS Security Officer, contacted me telephonically conveying a request from [] COINS Project Manager, to arrange a meeting to discuss certain aspects of the proposed upgrading of COINS to the TK level. I agreed to meet with [] and we got together at CIA Headquarters on 2 February. [] took part in the discussions. 25X1 25X1

25X1 2. [] began the discussion by citing the conclusions of the Malkin group as approved at its 26 January meeting. [] stated that, although on 26 January these conclusions were only in note form, he knew from later contact with Malkin that they had been formulated on paper and were ready for the signature of the ASD(I) on 30 January. He is confident that the Malkin group report was forwarded to the DCI on schedule, i. e., on 1 February. 25X1

25X1 3. According to [] the recommendations of the Malkin group are:

a. To free the COINS funds earlier frozen or deleted in FY 73 and FY 74 budgets; the needed funds in FY 74 are to be replaced;

b. To upgrade the COINS network to the TK level as soon as possible;

c. To take action to improve progressively the communications portions of the network so that an interactive mode can be achieved; 25X1

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- d. To improve the quality of COINS files drastically;
- e. To transfer the COINS executive agent responsibility from DIRNSA to ASD(I);
- f. To institute standards (according to [] this recommendation was not further explained).

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[] said that he had attended the 26 January Malkin meeting and that with the exception of the CIA representative, all principals had completely endorsed these recommendations in a loud voice. [] pinchhitting for the CIA principal, like the other members approved the conclusions on behalf of his Agency but in a lower voice.

4. [] indicated that his reason for wanting to discuss the proposed upgrading with me was to get an estimate of how long it would take to meet from a mechanical standpoint the personnel and physical criteria of securing the COINS network, as

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end.)

5. [] indicated that he is proceeding with plans to upgrade the network to the TK level with an operational target date of 1 May 1973. Further, [] wanted my reaction to his desire to have NPIC rejoin the network in an active fashion at that time by making available to the COINS community the COMIREX Installations Data File (IDF) and Exploitation Products Data File (EPDF).

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6. Concerning [] first question re my view of his selection of a 1 May target date for upgrading COINS, I provided

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him with the projected schedule of the USIB/CSS COINS upgrading action; I estimated completion of this action on 1 March with a projected reporting by the Security Committee to the IHC in late March. I told him that our response would probably address the short term problem by detailing the mechanics of securing the current COINS configuration to the TK level from a personnel and physical security standpoint. For the longer range problem we would probably stick to our earlier suggestion that the COINS management, the IHC, and the CSS work together. I also suggested that our response would call attention to the risks involved in raising the security level of COINS, particularly the problem of an enlarged data base with an increased number of potential users.

7. I expressed my personal view that his 1 May target date was unrealistic, noting that the earliest date that I personally could project was 1 October 1973.

8. I emphasized to [] that identification of the mechanics of securing COINS to TK was only one phase of the problem, the solution to which on a short term basis should be outlined in the CSS report. The other phase, probably more critical, is the management decision on the part of the DCI to run the security risks involved in the proposal. I noted that principal advisors to the DCI in this regard would be the TCO and TSO. In response to his interest in contacting these individuals at a later date, I offered my services to broker such a meeting.

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9. In response to [] question about introducing the NPIC files into COINS I counselled that I was not the proper person to whom such a question ought to be addressed.

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10. In response to my question, [] stated that he had not actually seen the Malkin report either in final form or in draft.

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11. Since most of our discussion was informal I suggested that the best action at the present time in regard to the whole problem seemed to be to await receipt of the Malkin report by the

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DCI. I expressed my confidence that the DCI would staff out the recommendations of the Malkin report and that the proposed upgrading of COINS to TK was still at this point in time by no means firm.

12. Our meeting was unusually congenial and I believe that the CSS and the COINS project management can continue to work together in resolving the long term aspects of the COINS upgrading proposal.

SIGNED

[Redacted Signature]

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Chairman

Computer Security Subcommittee
United States Intelligence Board

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